Employment through IT

†*494. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new and additional employment opportunities have been created in the country after development and expansion of information technology industry during the last few years;

(b) if so, the estimate regarding annual increase in the additional employment opportunities generated during the nineties; and

(c) the number of persons working in the information technology industry in the country at the end of the decade?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Employment opportunities are estimated to have increased at an annual rate of more than 20 per cent during nineties.

(c) According to a survey, there were 4,10,000 persons employed in IT industry at the end of the year, 2000.

CVC report on defence deals

*495. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI ABANI ROY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether CVC has submitted its final Report to Government on all major defence procurements worth over Rs. 75 crore since April, 1989;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made in the Report and action taken thereon;

(c) whether an active involvement of middlemen in the defence purchases had been noticed in the past few years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to bring transparency in the defence purchases?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report is being examined.

(c) and (d) The instructions of 17.4.1989 issued by Ministry of Defence barred the involvement of agents in the purchase of weapons/weapon systems. Further instructions had also been issued on 7.11.1997 by the Ministry of Defence that in all contracts with foreign suppliers, clauses need to be incorporated whereby the seller is required to give an undertaking that they have not engaged any individual or firm, etc. or paid any amount of them for purpose of interceding or facilitating the award of the contract. As and when, any complaint is received in this regard, it is examined and appropriate action taken.

(e) With a view to ensuring high levels of transparency in defence purchases, Government have issued orders, in consultation with the CVC/C&AG, for mandatory and time-bound scrutiny of all major procurements/purchase decisions, involving cost of above Rs. 75 crores, by the C&AG and where necessary, by the CVC.

Physically challenged job seekers in A.P.

*496. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of physically challenged job seekers registered in general and special Employment Exchanges in Andhra Pradesh as on date with details of the visually handicapped, deaf and dumb and orthopaedically handicapped, exchange-wise and category-wise;